

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original). A necktie holding apparatus, comprising:

a generally elongate body portion having first and second ends,
a first engagement mechanism located at said first end, for attaching the necktie holding apparatus to the collar button of a shirt;
a second engagement mechanism located at said second end, for attaching the necktie holding apparatus to a knot formed in a necktie.

Claim 2 (original). The necktie holding apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first engagement mechanism comprises a button hole in an enlarged area at the first end.

Claim 3 (original). The necktie holding apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second engagement mechanism is a hook.

Claim 4 (currently amended). A necktie holding apparatus, comprising:

a generally elongate body portion having first and second ends,
a first engagement mechanism located at said first end, for attaching the necktie holding apparatus to the collar button of a shirt;
a second engagement mechanism located at said second end, for attaching the necktie holding apparatus to a knot formed in a necktie.

~~The necktie holding apparatus of claim 1~~ wherein said first engagement mechanism is a first hook having a curvature generally lying in a first plane, and said second engagement mechanism is a second hook having a curvature in a second plane, wherein said first and second planes are generally orthogonal.

Claim 5 (original). The necktie holding apparatus of claim 1 wherein said apparatus is made of plastic.

Claim 6 (original). The necktie holding apparatus of claim 1 wherein the distance between said first and second ends is between about 1.5 and 2.5 inches.

Claim 7 (original). The necktie holding apparatus of claim 1 wherein said elongate body is generally flat.

Claim 8 (currently amended). A necktie holding apparatus, comprising:

a plastic, generally flat elongate body having an attachment structure at a first end thereof for securing the necktie holding apparatus to the collar button of a user's shirt;

a hook at the second end of said elongate body for engaging a knot in a user's necktie, said hook having a curvature which is lies in a plane which intersects the plane defined by said generally flat elongate body;

wherein the distance between said first and second ends is between 1.5 and 2.5 inches.

Claim 9 (original). The necktie holder of claim 8, wherein said attachment structure comprises a buttonhole for receiving said collar button.

Claim 10 (original). The necktie holder of claim 1 wherein said apparatus is made of metal.

Claim 11 (original). The necktie holder of claim 10 wherein said metal necktie holder is formed from a metal wire.

Claim 12 (original). The necktie holder of claim 10 wherein said metal is a precious metal.

Claim 13 (original). A method of holding a necktie in position on a shirt having an unbuttoned collar button, comprising:

securing one end of an elongate necktie holder to the collar button of the shirt using a first attachment mechanism on a first end of said necktie holder,

securing the other end of said necktie holder to the knot of a necktie using a second attachment mechanism at the second end of said necktie holder.

Claim 14 (original). The method of claim 13, wherein said second attachment mechanism comprises a hook.